

REMARKS

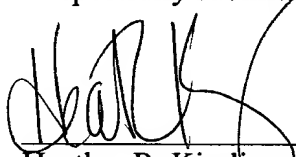
The Office has rejected claims 10, 41, 47, 48, 60-62, and 64 as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,555,368 (Curiel et al.) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Applicants thank Examiner Guzo for his time and consideration during the telephonic interview on Friday, August 8, 2003, with Applicants' representative Heather R. Kissling. During the telephonic interview, Examiner Guzo confirmed that claims 17 and 18, listed in the Office Action as being rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), are not included in the rejection and are allowable. Claims 10, 41, 47, 48, 60-62, and 64 have been cancelled merely in an effort to advance prosecution of the instant application and not in acquiescence of the rejection.

Claim 46 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for depending from a cancelled claim. Claim 46, as well as claim 48, has been amended to depend from pending claim 42, thereby rendering the rejection moot.

Claims 42, 56-59, and 63 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claims 42, 56, 57, and 63 have been rewritten in independent form incorporating all of the features of the base claim, as suggested by the Office. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments. Currently pending claims 58 and 59 do not depend from a rejected claim. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection of the claims.

The application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, the application is not in condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully request a telephone conference with the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,



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